

Nursing, tech students want to break from DSA

By Ken Cenerelli, Jayson Hunt
and M.L. Skornyak

Student dissatisfaction at Conestoga College's Doon campus has come to a head.

Petitions calling for the separation of nursing and technology students from the Doon Student Association have been circulating since the first week in April.

The petition calls for a formal separation from the present Doon campus student association for all nursing and technology students due to poor representation by the DSA.

The petitions stated demands are not signed by any group and the circulators of the petitions have not come forward.

The two petitions have collected an unknown number of signatures.

Many students in support of the petition believe the activity fees collected by the DSA could be spent in better ways.

If the petitions are successful —

by achieving 51 per cent support from the students in each of the program areas — the result would be a separate Doon Nursing Student Association (DNSA) and Doon Technology Student Association (DTSA).

The petitions' description of the new organizations is vague. The petition states the organizations may collect their own activity fees and organize their own activities.

However, the demands have changed several times since the original petitions were posted and new versions of the petitions have appeared.

The issue was first addressed publicly by the DSA at the April 2 board of directors meeting.

Jamie Slater, the current DSA vice-president of communications, recommended an open forum to

"clear up some of the misconceptions students have and to repair the communication breakdown between students and the DSA."

The forum is scheduled for April 28. The petitions and the formation of the nursing and technology associations will be discussed, among other issues.

"It's an opportunity for students to voice their concerns," said Todd

Sutherland, DSA president-elect.

Current DSA president Jeffrey Nold and vice-president of administration Anita Arnold said they believe the petitions have gained support based on misinformation.

"They don't have all the information or the right information to See Students, page 4

Sutherland's position, page 3

DSA activities are not what tech students want

The recent petition to sever ties with the Doon Student Association is a loud signal that there is a problem with the DSA among technology students, said the chair of an engineering student group.

But the chair of engineering technology says the students should try to solve the problems rather than splitting into a myriad of groups.

Gary Pundsack, a second-year mechanical engineering student and chair

of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers at the college, said the petition to form the Doon Technology Student Association "signals there is a problem with the DSA."

Technology students feel left out of DSA activities, Pundsack said. "More than one-third of the activity fees are contributed by technology students and the students are concerned about where their money is going."

Pundsack said the activities don't

appeal to mature students like himself — a population that is growing.

"Revision is needed for our activities because, let's face it, a lot of people don't want to drive to school, drink beer in the cafeteria at night and then drive home."

The technology petition, Pundsack said, will encourage See Technology, page 4

Nurses concerns, page 4

DSA FRAC TURED

The participants:

Students in nursing and technology, the Doon Student Association

The issues:

These students are not happy with the activities and spending of the DSA

The action:

A secession petition is circulated; DSA calls an open forum



Valerie Gennings, right, peer helping administrator, cuts a piece of cake while Joanne Morgan, peer tutoring administrator, serves at the peer helping and peer tutoring appreciation dinner at Doon campus.

(Photo by Ken Cenerelli)

Tutors, helpers honored

By Ken Cenerelli

"You are a valuable asset to the college."

That was the message at the peer helping, peer tutoring appreciation dinner held on April 6 in the blue cafeteria at Doon campus.

There were more than 60 peer tutors and peer helpers at the dinner.

It was organized by peer helping administrator Valerie Gennings and peer tutoring administrator Joanne Morgan.

"The dinner is to show our appreciation for the peer helpers and peer tutors," Gennings said. "These people are exceptional folks."

Dignitaries at the dinner included college President John Tibbits, vice-president of student development and human resources John MacKenzie and the director of Student Services, Jack Fletcher.

Both Tibbits and MacKenzie praised the work of the tutors and helpers and credited them with doing an important job for their fellow students.

During the dinner Gennings and Morgan read letters of congratulation from program co-ordinators and students who have used the peer helping and peer tutoring programs.

"It is getting down to the end of the term and people are working really hard. It is nice if they can take a break, have dinner with their colleagues and hear how important their work is," Gennings said.

The dinner took about six hours of preparation from the booking of the space, to preparing the menu and then sending out the invitations, Gennings said. Preparations began in December.

Program houses foreign students

By Ted Hodgins

Coming from a foreign country can be a harrowing experience if you don't have someone to help you get used to the new country.

Conestoga College is currently recruiting students from southeast Asia, primarily Japan and Korea, and helping find them someone to stay with. The program makes coming here more attractive for the students — and their parents.

"They want them to live in a family-like environment," said Doug Prokopec, the college's manager of international educational projects.

"The Homestay program is more than just renting a room, it's taking one of these international students into your family. Ideally, they become part of the family."

The program has been designed to meet the needs of students from other countries and their parents, who may be worried about their children in a foreign land. A system has been set up to find the best

environment for these students.

"The Homestay program is mainly for accommodation, it is not really a college program," Prokopec said. "This is just the way we have chosen to find a temporary family for the student."

There are currently two students coming to the college and more than six more coming in the near future.

These new students will be taking a variety of programs but they will all have to take one particular course first.

"Most of the students who come have to upgrade their English, or learn English from scratch, so most of them will come into the English as a second language program here."

From there, they have goals of either going on to a regular college diploma program or into a university program," Prokopec said. "Those who want to go on to a college program, we hope will stay here."

All Homestay "parents" are carefully chosen and have to meet certain criteria before they are

accepted into the program.

"Location is our main concern, if a student is taking a course at the Waterloo campus then we would be looking for something close."

A recent ad in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record has drawn hundreds of responses from eager families, but Prokopec is worried that the \$500 a month payment is the reason and not concern for the students.

"Each potential family will be looked at closely to ensure a proper home environment. I visit each house, meet the family and see the room before I make any decisions," Prokopec said.

Prokopec wants anyone interested to realize that what they are doing is like a temporary adoption.

"When these students come into your home you almost have to treat them like they were one of your own. If you are going out to the cottage for the weekend you have to think of the student, just like you would your own son or daughter."



It's in the bank

Conestoga College took another step closer to reaching its fund-raising goal of \$4.5 million when the Royal Bank of Canada donated \$55,000 over a five-year period.

The bank's vice-president Bill Aitkenhead, left, presented the first installment to college President John Tibbits on April 14.

The college is now nearing the half-way mark of the current campaign, Tibbits said.

The purpose of the fund is to construct a school of business at Doon campus and purchase new equipment.

(Photo by Jamie Slater)

SPOKE

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Is there life after the college years?



By Jamie Slater

Four years of going to college and all that I got was...

I'm sure most of us are familiar with that classic poster that displays a Ferrari, a Corvette, a personal helicopter and a mansion big enough to squish the entire land of Oz, if ever caught in a cyclone.

But I jest, my friends. All is not well in college-graduate land.

In several weeks from now, there will be thousands of post-secondary graduates seeking jobs.

Sure, although you've studied business, applied arts, technology or health sciences, if you find that your heart is really in 31 flavors, men's socks or french fries with that, you may have a chance.

But let's look at this realistically.

Doesn't sound bad

In my particular program, journalism, a recent college alumni occupation status report lists the average current salary per graduate year for 1990-91 as \$10,000 to \$29,000.

The \$29,000 doesn't sound bad. That is, until, you compare that with other stats.

The same report listed the average salary per graduate year from 1973 to 1980 as \$40,000 to \$59,000.

Maybe it's just me, but hasn't the cost of living gone up since 1980? It's called inflation. So, why has my chosen career's wage scale decided to take a dive?

In my case, the print-journalism field has been hurt by a more rapid lifestyle — no one wants to READ it when they can WATCH it.

I know what you're thinking, my field isn't the only one that has regressed over the years.

Go to the United States

In order to find a well-paying nursing job, many students must now go to the U.S. where there is a need for nurses. To some that sounds like a great deal. But what if you have a spouse? They're not able to work until after living in the U.S. one year. This great option is suddenly not financially stable.

So, what are our options?

We can brave this recession and work any job we can find, while applying for anything we think we would like to do.

We can go back to college or apply to university and improve our education, and improve our chances at those jobs we want.

But this is my particular favorite.

We can all become Tom Vu groupies and make a million dollars through real estate, for only \$10,000 down!

I don't know about you, but that's the life for me!

Letters to the editor

Spoke welcomes all letters to the editor. If you have a beef or an opinion, send it to Spoke. We reserve the right to edit letters to fit space and to remove any libelous statements. Your letter must be signed and include your program and year for verification. Letters may be mailed or dropped off at the Spoke office, room 4B15, Doon campus.

Letters to the editor are your way of getting your viewpoint across to the students of Conestoga College. Try it.

OPINION

EARTH DAY - CATCH THE SPIRIT



Time to jump on the Earth Day bandwagon

It's that time of year again.

That time when the rain won't quit and daylight extends past 6 o'clock. But April also brings along another facet — Earth Day, April 22.

Yet again it is time to jump on the Earth Day bandwagon. When the whole world becomes environmentally conscious for a day and people vow to change their ways for the good of the planet.

When network television capitalizes on a marketing bonanza and offers up countless shows from "How to save the planet in six easy steps" to rock concerts funding tree planting in Sri Lanka.

It has become another Hallmark occasion.

When the first Earth Day was staged in 1970, 20 million people rallied for a cause they believed in. Most were students who could see what we were doing to the earth. Everyone involved cared.

When the second Earth Day was held on its 20th anniversary in 1990, hundreds of millions of people from around the world took part to make Earth a better place.

But by then, being environmentally conscious was just another trend. People took part because they thought they had to, not because they wanted to.

And even with another one last year, the participants still are not scraping the tip of the problem.

People who participate in Earth Day events and then go back to their old habits of littering and polluting are not in any way helping the problem. They cannot expect to reverse 364 days of negligence in one.

U.S. President George Bush, who touted himself as

"the environmental president" during his run for office in 1988, has not even mentioned the subject during his campaign for re-election this year. Some have even called him anti-environment.

Governments make pledges of more money for the environment during Earth Day rallies, but in reality allocate the money for clean-up projects at polluted sites they have neglected or been afraid to expose under threat of company pullout.

The governments and citizens are fighting with one hand tied behind their collective back against big business. Especially the major employers in small towns, who threaten to move to other countries where the environmental laws are lax.

It comes down to a question of jobs versus the health of the planet.

The spotted owl in the northern U.S. has brought logging in that area to a standstill. Federal law has made most of the logging areas a conservation zone, putting the loggers on the unemployment line.

People can see how bad off the earth is, but when it comes down to their livelihood or some owls, the owls will always lose.

No one is saying that everyone can be environmentally conscious 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. But an effort must be made to make this a more hospitable place to live. Every little bit helps and the sum of the whole is equal to all its parts. No matter how small.

Otherwise, the line up for the wagon starts behind George Bush.

—Ken Cenerelli

Vigilante shooting unnecessary

It took a couple of years, but Canada has felt the influence of Bernard Goetz, New York City's "subway vigilante."

On March 13, a Metro Toronto police commissioner and councillor shot a robber at his store, Steeles Bakery. Police decided last week that no charges would be laid against Norm Gardner in the shooting.

This incident raises issues of vigilantism that are just not acceptable.

The robbery suspect assaulted a 70-year-old female clerk, then turned to confront Gardner. Gardner shot the suspect in the leg with a single bullet.

Gardner said he assumed the man was armed, but he "did not actually see a weapon." Police sources said the man was unarmed.

Unnecessary use of weapons is wrong, perhaps even moreso for someone who's a police commissioner and a city councillor. Gardner should be setting a positive example for the rest of the police force and for the people of Toronto.

With this story hitting the national media, any storeowner in Toronto, or Canada for that matter, thinking about packing a gun will take it a step further. Perhaps they'll even use it anytime they believe their life is in danger.

The fact that Gardner was not charged will encourage shopkeepers to take the law into their own hands

against actions perceived as threats.

Our society has laws and the police forces are peace-keeping units which enforce those laws. If others start doing the police's job any time they feel they are threatened, anarchy will result.

Gardner said he had a permit to carry a Glock 9-mm semi-automatic handgun because of threats on his life. In keeping with this permit, the gun should have only been used when there was a definite threat being made on his life.

As with any gun use, the gun should only be used as an absolute last resort — when it is a matter of life or death.

Gardner said, "As the robber moved toward me, I felt my life was in danger. In an effort to deter him... I deliberately fired a shot into the lower part of his leg to minimize the possibility of injury to him."

This was clearly not a case of do or die. How could Gardner know his life was in danger just from someone coming towards him? The robber had no weapon that Gardner could see, so there was no reason that Gardner should have felt that his life was in danger.

Hasn't Gardner ever heard of talking someone down or negotiating with a suspect?

Why did his first reaction to violence have to be more violence?

—Stewart Shutler

MEET THE DSA

Todd Sutherland: Suds is DSA prez!

The newly acclaimed Doon Student Association president predicts an exciting year for students who get involved.

"The college can be a fun place to be, as well as an institute of learning," Todd Sutherland said. "But students have to take the first step and participate, to take advantage of all that Conestoga has to offer."

The 27-year-old Kitchener native said he plans to run an open-door administration. "We'll go to the people to talk to them instead of having closed doors and students not knowing who the DSA president is. For this administration, people will know who we are."

Sutherland felt this year's election results were disappointing because it is the second year in a row the DSA president position was filled by acclamation.

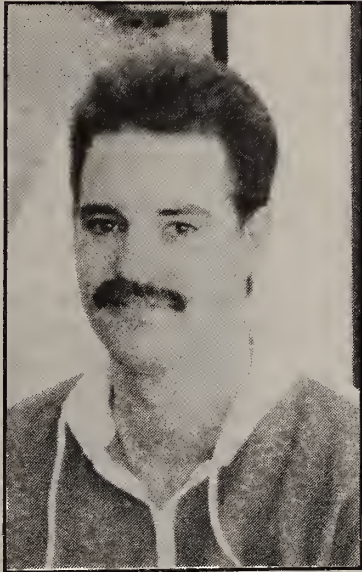
"I was hoping for an election, but I'll take it nonetheless," he said. "I'm looking forward to next year and it's pretty exciting being president."

He believes the DSA should remain the sole executive body for students at the Doon campus, but said the concern for better student representation at the executive level is a valid concern.

"Individual student associations would separate the entire school and put up borders between students," Sutherland said. "It would kill school spirit as a whole. I wouldn't like to see everyone separate and branch off into their own little groups. That is just like Quebec leaving Canada."

He said it is a priority of the newly-acclaimed DSA members to examine other ways student groups can be represented at the executive level.

One of the ways, suggested by the current DSA vice-president of communications Jamie Slater, would be to have elected executive members from each of the four schools represented by the DSA:



Todd Sutherland

applied arts, business, engineering technology and health sciences. The representatives would be elected by students within their program areas and act as liaisons between the students and the DSA.

"I think it's a good idea. It would eliminate the current problem of a small group of people running things for the rest of the campus."

In his spare time, the second-year marketing student enjoys golf and he plays goalie for the Doon campus intra-mural ball hockey team, The Boyz. The team won the spring league.

He also enjoys participating in the annual marketing competition.

At last year's competition in Ottawa, Sutherland competed in the "quizzables" category, a game like Jeopardy, where teams of students are quizzed on more than 800 marketing definitions.

Stories and photos by
M. L. Skornyak

Mark Weicker: "something I can contribute"

"I'll make the time for people."

That's the message the Doon Student Association's newly acclaimed vice-president of communications wants to send to students.

Mark Weicker promises to be approachable and looks forward to proving he's worthy of the executive position he holds.

"Being an executive member of the DSA is something that I wanted to do," Weicker said.

"I can't say there is really one thing that drove me to do it. It is something that I felt I could contribute."

The 24-year-old second-year marketing student, who served as a member of the board of directors for two years as a class representative, believes his business background will be an asset to the DSA.

"This is basically a business and you need a business sense," he said.

"I've been trained to run an organization and I'm not afraid of putting in long hours."

Along with president-elect Todd Sutherland and vice-president-elect Steve Tremblay, Weicker hopes to improve school spirit and involvement at the Doon campus.

He said this year's election turnout was "pitiful" because only three students out of more than 3,000 wanted to get involved and the three executive positions were acclaimed.

"Why was everyone acclaimed? Is there a student voice? If people are so concerned about what is going on around here, why don't other people get involved," he asked.

Weicker, a Kitchener native, took a three-year break after high school to work full-time and "figure things out to decide what (he) really wanted to do."



Mark Weicker

After graduation, he plans to work for an advertising agency and hopes to someday own his own agency.

Weicker was told by a faculty member to have a good time being a DSA executive member and to keep things in perspective — and he intends to.

Steve Tremblay: "wanted to be more than a rep"

Steve Tremblay intends to make the most of his time at Conestoga College's Doon campus — both academically and socially.

The 19-year-old student from Southampton is the newly acclaimed vice-president of administration for the Doon Student Association.

"I wanted to be more than just a rep or a board of directors member," Tremblay said. "I feel the DSA works for the students and not the DSA itself. I want to make a difference."

This isn't Tremblay's first foray into student politics. Tremblay served as the 1991-92 vice-president of the Doon Business Student Association.

He credits DBSA president Jen Dellow, DBSA vice-president Dan Pereira, and business faculty members for supporting and encouraging him.

"At first I had no idea where I was or what to do, and they helped me along," Tremblay said. "Other-

wise, I wouldn't be here as a DSA executive member."

He said he doesn't want to make any promises that he can't keep, but he has a few ideas that he wants to discuss with the other executive members before going public with them.

"One thing that we all have in common is we want to try to improve school spirit and add some pep to the school environment," he said. "We want to try and get the student body involved."

Tremblay is in his first year of the three-year computer programmer-analyst program.

"I took a computer course in high school and I know this is what I want to do," he said.

"I enjoy it. Some people can sit around forever and read books and enjoy it. I can sit in front of a computer terminal."

He is interested in designing computer systems. After graduation, he hopes to work in the field for a few years, travel, and possibly continue

his education.

Tremblay said he is looking forward to working with Mark Weicker and Todd Sutherland and the rest of the executive committee to make next year a good year for the DSA and the rest of the student body.

As for 1993-94, Tremblay has his sights set on the DSA president's position.



Steve Tremblay



Vrrrrrooom!!!

From left, Tom Oberle; Wayne Ashton, the owner and driver; Ted Britton; and Jim Ashton; proudly display their dirt-modified stock car.

(Photo by M. L. Skornyak)

GSA president wins board of governors seat

By Daniel Harrison

The president of the Guelph Student Association has won a seat on Conestoga College's board of governors. But voter turnout was low.

Paula Ireland, a second-year materials management student, handily won the four-candidate election, polling 91 of 156 votes cast.

She will begin her one-year term at the board's September meeting, replacing former Doon Student Association president John Lassel.

The college's board of governors is the highest decision-making body for the college. All of its members are appointed by the province, but four of the 12 members are internally elected — then appointed — to represent various college groups, including the students.

Ireland, 22, said in a previous interview she wanted the student board member to represent the whole college, not just Doon campus.

She also said it was important that the representative be a student attending the college while serving on the board. The materials management program is a three-year course.

Lassel was a graduate of the college while on the board.

This dual role of being both a student and a board

member will make students more aware of the board and increase the students' voice at the board level, she said.

She is a big booster of the college system. Ireland said the hands-on nature of a college education is more valuable than a university education, which she has tried.

Ireland said she will institute regular meetings with the student association presidents from the four college campuses to hear their concerns and give them feedback from the board.

The breakdown of the voting by campus was: Doon, 47; Guelph, 81; Stratford, 0; Waterloo, 0; and spoiled ballots, 4. More than 5,000 students were eligible to vote.

Marie Slater, who supervised the voting for the board, said this was one of the lowest vote totals in the few years she has overseen voting. The last election, in 1990 — Lassel was acclaimed in '91 — had approximately 180 votes cast, she said.

The poor turnout may be because of a spring election — the new date for the voting for electable board seats, Slater said.

Previously, voting occurred in the fall. But the provincial overseer of colleges, the council of regents, has changed the timing of elections.

Because of this, Lassel served a half-year longer to accommodate the new schedule.

Students have problems with DSA

Continued from page 1

make these decisions," Arnold said.

"As a nursing student myself, I feel that yes, you have to look out for your own interests, but you also have to see that the (DSA) organization has to be there to represent all of the students and not just one specific group.

"I am not denying that there shouldn't be changes made or that the money shouldn't be spent in different ways, but as far as obtaining money, I don't think that is a possibility."

Student activity fees, currently \$53 per full-time student, are forwarded to the DSA by the board of governors under an agreement made 25 years ago.

The agreement does not allow students or groups, other than the DSA, to collect activity fees.

But, the DSA board of directors has the right to decide where the

fees go, through the budgetary process. The BOD is the DSA's top decision-making body.

At a BOD meeting April 2, Slater recommended that next year's executive examine the possibility of elected executive-level representatives from each of the schools represented by the DSA. Each representative would be elected by students within their school: applied arts, business, engineering technology and health sciences.

This model would ensure better representation from each of the various programs at the executive level, Slater said.

Nold agrees with Slater's recommendation. Although individual program associations work effectively, Nold said there still must be one group representing all the students.

"The college exists for the students," Nold said. "The college wouldn't open its door if it wasn't for the students. The DSA is the same, we work for the students —

all the students."

At the April 2 BOD meeting, disqualified DSA presidential candidate Rob Erickson admitted he signed the technology petition.

He said he was not actively campaigning in support of the petitions because of possible accusations he was using this as revenge against the DSA for being disqualified.

However, Kim Arnold, a first-year registered nursing student and BOD member, said she saw Erickson soliciting support during the week of April 6 from students in the nursing wing for the DNSA petition.



Jamie Slater

Technology students petition split from DSA

Continued from page 1

discussion among technology students.

He said most students are fragmented by program and there isn't enough communication between the programs. He hopes the petition will focus on "what technological students want or don't want and then help come to a solution."

Pundsack has signed the petition and is encouraging others to do so. The SME has not endorsed the petition, because Pundsack said he hasn't discussed it with the SME executive committee.

Pundsack is involved in DSA affairs as a member of the DSA board

of directors.

In February, Pundsack brought his complaints to the DSA executive and was

invited by activities co-ordinator Becky Westman to make suggestions for any activities the technology students wanted.

"It is really hard from my perspective to come up with an idea that would interest technology stu-



Gary Pundsack

dents and be a general population activity," Pundsack said.

He recommended program-targeted or specifically-aimed activities be implemented. Westman said no concrete ideas were ever brought forward for discussion.

Fraser Cooper, chair of engineering technology, said he gave approval for the petition to be posted on technology bulletin boards, but hasn't formally supported or opposed the petition.

"My personal feeling is that it is not a good idea to split the DSA up into a whole bunch of other student associations," Cooper said. "If the DSA has problems, they should try to cure them rather than split up."

Nursing students have concerns about fees

The high incidental student fees and where they go were the concern of a number of signatories of the nursing student's petition to break away from the Doon Student Association.

But a DSA executive member says their concerns are not under the DSA's control.

The petition demands a separate Doon Nursing Student Association, but its circulator has not come forward.

Cindy Bowden, a first-year registered nursing assistant student, signed the DNSA petition.

"I'm supporting it because I'm just paying money for facilities I will never use. That is like me paying monthly payments for a car that I am never going to get to drive," she said.

She and her classmates were concerned about the athletic fees they pay for the running of the recreation centre.

Bowden and her classmates sat down and discussed the activity fee issue. They concluded the best solution to the problem was to sign the petition and most of them signed it.

Jamie Slater, DSA vice-president of communications, said the athletic fees paid to the recreation centre "have nothing to do with the DSA. The activity fees collected by the DSA support student projects and events, like Orientation Week, trips and pubs. We have no control and no say over the athletic fees, which are set by the board of governors."

The board of governors is the college's top decision-making body. Bowden, who started classes in

February said, "To tell you the truth, I can't really say how I feel (about the DSA) because I haven't been involved with them at all."

Bill Jeffrey, the dean of health sciences, said he wasn't aware of the petition for a nursing student association separate from the DSA and at the time of the interview hadn't been approached by any students for support.

To succeed, the petition does not require the support of the health sciences division, Jeffrey said.

Jeffrey said there are too many unanswered questions and not enough details about how the DNSA would function.

The proposed DNSA is a separate organization from the current Student Nursing Awareness Committee started this fall.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Directors
of the Doon Student Association



will be holding an OPEN FORUM
to address the concerns of students in regards

to any DSA policies or procedures

The forum will be held on

Tuesday, April 28 at 4 p.m. in Room 2A56

All students and interested parties are
encouraged to attend

Issues that will be addressed include:

Capital Development Fund, Election Procedures
External Communication, the DSTA and DSNA
and any other concerns students raise

Also meet the new DSA executive members.

Application DEADLINE

for

PEER HELPERS

Doon campus

All applications and interviews for diploma
students interested in working as a

PEER HELPER

next year must be made to
Student Services
Room 2B12

by Wednesday, April 22

Conestoga Peer Services — Working for you!

SPRING THAW BOAT RACE Saturday, April 25

CLASSES:

Canoe — Maximum 2 persons

Kayak — Maximum 1 person

Home-made Craft — Maximum 6 persons

No sails, motors or racing canoes allowed. Life jackets must be worn.

REGISTRATION:

Saturday, April 25

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Labatt's Van, Bridgeport Community Centre

20 Tyson Dr., Kitchener

\$5 per person

START:

10 a.m., Bridgeport Community Centre

FINISH:

Canoe and Kayak — 15 miles down river
approximately 1/2 mile past Doon Pioneer Tower at Pinnacle Drive
Home-made Craft — 6 miles down river near Forwell's Gravel Pit

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Edelweiss Tavern,
600 Doon Village Rd.
Following the race



For more information, please call 748-5131

PEER TUTORS

FOR SEPT. '92

QUALIFICATIONS:

* A or B in completed subjects * Enjoy working with people

* Strong communication skills

BENEFITS:

* Develop new skills * Useful on resumé * Wage of \$7 per hour



Spotlight on local talent



Christine Soucie, Doon watercolor artist, specializes in portraits of homes and buildings.
(Photo by Zen Karp)

Original portraits 'leave a mark' on family history

By Zen Karp

For those with a special appreciation for their homes, having an original watercolor portrait of it could be the perfect idea.

"When I paint, I realize I'm painting a home, not just an architectural structure," said 43-year-old Christine Soucie, a Kitchener watercolor artist living in Doon, who has specialized in house portraits for about eight years.

She began her business by word of mouth, telling people she would paint a watercolor portrait of their homes, or any home, for a price, depending on the size of the painting. Now she has a stand at the Circle "M" flea market for which she pays \$36 weekly. Her paintings earn anywhere from \$30 to \$400, and so far she says business is "pretty good."

According to Soucie, people approach her to have portraits done of houses they used to live in or grew up in, houses belonging to their ancestors, even churches they were married in.

"It's like leaving a mark on family history, and something to pass down for generations," she said.

People having an original portrait of their home get a nostalgic feeling because it's proof of the value and pride they have towards their homes, she added.

George Gunn, owner of a Waterloo toy store, had a portrait done by Soucie of the home he grew up in, which he watched his father build.

"I remember the chimney, I used to climb down it," he said as he smiled at the painting. "This painting brings back fond memories of my childhood."

"You try to get the character of the person who lives there," Soucie said.

Since the age of six, she wanted to become an artist. After graduating from high school in Burlington, where she spent her teenage life, she experimented with pen-and-ink sketching, oil, and watercolor. She chose to specialize in watercolor because she "always appreciated the medium" which contains soft, light, subtle colors.

Local musician happy to play the bars to gain recognition

By Tara Howell and Julie Magee

A guy and his guitar is not an unusual sight in local bars. It does not seem too impressive until he begins to play.

Paul MacLeod, 21, of Kitchener is a talented musician who can be heard playing in bars like the Olde English Parlour, The Edge and Lauderdale's in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. MacLeod is also an English major in his third year at Wilfrid Laurier University.

"I do it more for fun and I don't want to change," MacLeod said regarding his musical career. When he plays in bars he sings well-known songs to keep the audience's attention

but he occasionally performs a couple of his own songs to test them out and get the audience's reaction.

MacLeod plays simple acoustic music using a guitar, harmonica and his voice, appealing to a wide audience. He feels strongly about the musical talent that is in Canada. MacLeod feels that the music that is coming out of this country at the moment is better than its ever been.

He admits that all music industries manufacture undesirable music and Canada is included in that group.

With regards to the music that is around locally:

"It is more vital than anything right now," he said. MacLeod feels that the opportunities here

for musicians are just as good as in the United States. In his opinion, if a musician plays enough dates locally he/she will be recognized by the public.

Band opener

MacLeod gained recognition by opening for other bands such as the Skydiggers, Rheostatics and Gregory Hoskins and the Stick People. When he opens for other bands, MacLeod plays his own music.

MacLeod praises the coverage that Spotlight magazine gives to local talent. Spotlight will talk to anyone and does not make it difficult for musicians or artists to get a review in the publication.

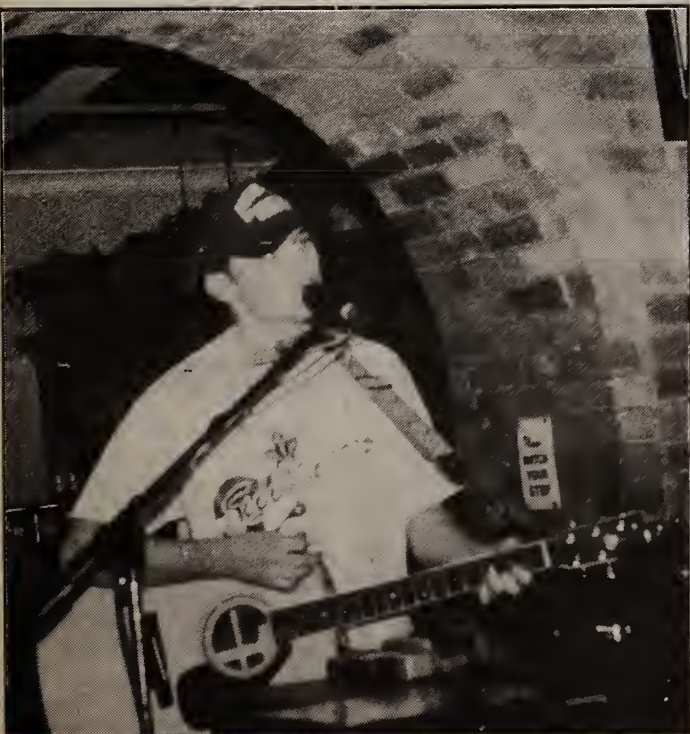
He feels that any press given to an individual, whether good

My big goal is not to show up and to talk to Steve Anthony (of MuchMusic) —MacLeod

or bad, puts the artist in front of the public who can decide for themselves.

MacLeod wants to continue with his music career regardless of whether he makes it big or not. He enjoys playing and to him that should be all that matters.

"My big goal is not to show up and talk to Steve Anthony (of MuchMusic)," MacLeod said. He would be happy if only his friends listened to his music. Of course he would not complain if his music reached a larger audience.



Paul MacLeod, Kitchener singer, enjoys playing local bars.
(Photo by Tara Howell)

Kitchener high school teacher turns hobby into satisfying career

By Lori Liphard and Becki Chmielewski

Gord Brown, 38, is not just an art teacher at Grand River collegiate institute; he also spends some of his time as a freelance artist.

He graduated from the University of Guelph and took a correspondence course in graphic design from a school in West Port, Connecticut.

Brown, who has a wife, Betty Ann, and a 13-year-old son, Darcy, remembers when he used to stand on street corners drawing buildings and knocking on doors to ask people if he could photograph their barn or any odds and ends that were lying in the yard. "At one point, in the '70s, country settings and rural scenes were typical subject matter that were sellable," he said.

Why did he make the transition from art as a hobby to teaching it? Brown responded candidly. "I don't know if it was ever a hobby as such. I've always had the interest in art."

Brown has been drawing ever since he was old enough to hold a pencil.

His ability to draw was recognized by his kindergarten teacher.

"[At] age five, I showed some signs of life that way. And it was nurtured and encouraged and I think it's the idea of the more you do, the better you get at it, and the better you get at it, the more you want to do it," Brown said.

His interest in realism was channelled into portrait drawing. Depending on the complexity of the photograph to be drawn, Brown charges in the neighborhood of \$100.

After he began teaching he found, "I did not have the same creative energy to go into my own work."

Unlike some artists who look back at their work, Brown does not dwell on it. When asked what he considers to be his best piece of work, Brown could not recall one that stood out in his mind.

"After it's done, it's done, and there is no more enjoyment to be had. You get a sense of satisfaction, which is a whole different feeling. You look back on it and feel a sense of accomplishment," and added, "The fun is in the doing. You don't have fun looking back at the finished piece and saying, 'Yeah, I had fun doing it.'"

Spotlight on local talent is a Spoke insert written and produced by second semester journalism students.

Spotlight on local talent

America has Pride but Canada has Mercey



Larry Mercey, internationally famous singer/songwriter, makes his home on this side of the border.
(Photo by Denise Grant)

Local bar scene quacks up with Quacker's comedians

By Sandy McPhee

If you're tired of the same old rowdy bar scene where the music is loud and the company is bad, it's time to quack up with Quacker's Comedy.

Comedy is a growing business in Canada and it is becoming widely recognized in the local bar scene.

"Comedy is still a very new business and a lot of opportunities are still opening up," Chris Pongrac, president of Quacker's Comedy said.

Pongrac knew that comics throughout Canada needed to expand their horizons, develop their talent and perform in new venues. Quacker's Comedy was established for this very reason. It gives comedians the help they need to make it in a tough and competitive business.

Quacker's was established January 1987, in Hamilton, Ont., and Pongrac's experience in the business has proved invaluable. He started with a small number of comedians but now has more than 200 acts. The comedians perform all over Canada and the United States.

"Everyone is doing karaoke, but comedy is a growing business in Canada. I am trying to let people know that comedy is happening," Pongrac said.

Pongrac's advice to someone considering the profession is to watch a lot of comedy.

"Develop an act and filter it out because the first seven minutes of that act are the most important. Comedy should be presented professionally," Pongrac said.

Pongrac feels that Canada has more talented comedians than the United States. He said that comedians performing in Canada learn their trade in bars where they have to grab the audience's attention. In the United States, comedians learn in bars where the audience is conditioned to pay attention and in the mood to laugh.

The comedy business has its ups and downs and Pongrac indicated that many bar owners have can-

celled comedy nights because it takes some time to get the public interested.

Bar owners should realize that they just have to give it some time

and if the comedy is good, the crowds will eventually come, he said.

A local bar known as Hootch's in Cambridge hosts comedy every Thursday night. John Anderson, the bar owner, said he has hosted comedy for the past three months.

"Comedy night has really taken off in the last month and even though it was slow at first, the public has really started to enjoy it," Anderson said.

"Our success with comedy night was immediate. The crowd really enjoys it," Frank Young said, part owner of Frankie and Johnny's Roadhouse in Paris. They offer comedy nights every second Thursday.

Quacker's Comedy also provides comedy acts to several other local taverns including Rod's Place in Brantford and Spooners in London. Sauce Lips in Kitchener will eventually host comedy performances.

"I am going to keep on performing and keep on generating new comedy acts. Comedy is a growing business and it's getting bigger all the time," Pongrac said.

By Allana Gillam-Wright and Doug Williams

"Hey Uncle Tom, how are you getting on? Are you still living easy and in style?"

Anyone who recognizes these lyrics knows they have been immortalized in a song entitled Uncle Tom recorded by three brothers from Elmira—The Mercey Brothers.

Larry Mercey, who began his career as a solo artist in 1955, is today recognized and admired by his peers, both in the Canadian and American country music industry. This recognition is due entirely to perservice and talent.

Larry Mercey, along with brothers Ray and Lloyd, led Canadian country music from the 1960s to the mid 70s with such hits as Uncle Tom, The Great Snowman and Picking Up the Pieces.

In 1962, the Mercey Brothers went to New York to record with RCA Records. Unfortunately, it was difficult to get promotion from the company at that time because RCA was handling Elvis Presley and busy promoting American talent already signed to the label.

"If you want to make it in the United States you pretty much have to live there," Larry Mercey said. "Canadians tend to forget that they're only hearing the best from the United States."

From 1966 to 1970, the Mercey Brothers were under contract with Columbia Records of Canada and in 1969 they were nominated for a Juno Award.

The Mercey Brothers opened their own recording and publishing company in Elmira under the name Mercey Brothers Studio or MBS.

Lloyd Mercey attributed the success of the Mercey Brothers to their ability to pick a song on its merits from the many songs sent to their publishing company.

Uncle Tom was one such song. It was written by Don Cochrane and Doug Ballard; it went to number one on the Canadian country charts.

Ray Mercey left the group in 1980 and established his own renovations business in Elmira.

Larry and Lloyd Mercey continued to record together until Lloyd left in 1989 to pursue other interests.

Lloyd described their careers as a "labour of love" which they just made a living at. He is currently an advertising consultant with CKNX television and radio in Wingham, Ont., but still maintains an active interest in music. Lloyd now belongs to a group called The Heat, which plays for service clubs in the area.

Larry Mercey has continued with his music and formed a new group called Larry Mercey and the Larry Mercey Band.

He went to Nashville, Tenn. and recorded an album entitled Full Speed Ahead.

From this album, five singles went into the Top Ten on the Canadian country music charts, with two songs going all the way to number one.

Mercey's song, She Feels Like a New Man Tonight, was nominated for the best single of the year in 1990 by the Canadian Country Music Association.

He was also nominated for a Juno Award for best male vocalist in 1990. In 1991, Mercey was nominated by the Canadian Country Music Association for best male vocalist of the year.

The success of the Mercey Brothers in the '60s and '70s happened prior to the laws governing Canadian content by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

The CRTC ruled that Canadian radio stations must contain a minimum of 30 per cent Canadian content to allow local musicians more playing time.

At least two elements of the MAPL rule (Music, Artist, Production and Lyrics) must be Canadian for a song to qualify under Canadian content.

For most Canadian artists, the MAPL rule is an advantage, but sometimes it can cause problems. Just ask Bryan Adams.

"I think Canadian talent needs the MAPL rule and the 30 per cent Canadian content law," said Larry Mercey.

Mercey said Canadians should reflect Australian ideals in promoting their own talent first.

Unlike Canada, Australian radio stations give priority air play to their own musicians. This has contributed to the success of such artists as Olivia Newton John, the Bee Gees and Air Supply.

Kitchener radio stations give airplay and recognition

By Natasha Sweeney and Karl-ann Puckerling

"Canada is probably the best place in the whole wide world to get started in the music industry," Dave Schneider said, a music director at 570 CHYM.

There is no reason success could not happen to people in Canada, Schneider said.

"Local bands, trying to get started, sometimes send singles or

cassettes to the station", Tony Luciani, a music director at AM 109, said. AM 109 receives about a dozen demo tapes a year, while CHYM gets around five tapes a year.

Local bands such as Mel and Page from Cambridge are currently being played on AM 109. "There are not that many groups that record," said Luciani. "When they do record, they don't make very good records." When AM 109 re-

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Spotlight on local talent

Local musician supports Bryan Adams

By Kim Loule

"The bottom line is that, as a Canadian artist, you have many strikes against you," said Madonna Tassi during a recent interview in her Kitchener home. "If anyone disagrees with that then they're walking around with blinders on." Tassi is a local recording artist who has some definite views on the Canadian music scene, much the same views as those of Bryan Adams, who sparked controversy with his comments to Maclean's magazine regarding the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunication Commission.

"Canadian music will prevail regardless of government regulation," Adams said during his interview with Maclean's. "The hypocrisy of what happened to me is indicative of how stupid CanCon (Canadian content) really is."

Adams was referring to the CRTC ruling that the songs on his new album, *Waking Up the Neigh-*

bours, do not qualify as Canadian content.

Tassi has also overcome many of the roadblocks facing Canadian artists since her debut in a singing contest at Kitchener's Lancaster House Tavern almost 15 years ago.

Tassi's piercing green eyes and elegant red hair personify her resolve to succeed in the music industry in the face of her dual commitments to her family and her music.

At 35, she has a husband who is also her business manager, three children and a successful full-time singing career. She has released three singles, one of which, *Needing a Night Like This*, climbed to number one on the Canadian adult contemporary charts in 1983. She has also co-hosted CKCO-TV's *On Stage*.

More recently, Tassi opened a benefit concert in Milton this past December for Michael Burgess and Susan Gilmour, both stars of *Les Misérables*. She has also begun work on her first album using her

own material, which will be her first attempt at breaking into the pop-music charts. The album is tentatively titled *Come to Me Now*.

"In the United States there is more of a sense of free-enterprise," Tassi said.

Tassi believes that Canadian artists are caught in a catch-22. If artists remain in Canada, they will likely only find limited success. And yet, if those same artist find success outside of Canada, they suddenly become "sell-outs".

In the accompanying Maclean's article, Bruce Cockburn's manager, Bernie Finklestein, said that it would be disastrous to abolish CanCon. "CanCon is the cornerstone of the industry," Finklestein said.

Brad Roberts, band leader for the *Crash Test Dummies*, also thinks that CanCon is necessary for a healthy Canadian music industry.

"A lot of Canadian music wouldn't get played otherwise," Roberts said to Maclean's. "Sure, some of it is mediocre. But there's



Madonna Tassi, a local recording artist supports Bryan Adams.

all kinds of mediocre music that isn't Canadian that gets on the air."

Tassi didn't agree with either Finklestein or Roberts, but she addressed the other side of the issue.

"Yes, we need to know that the radio stations will be behind us [Canadian recording artists]," Tassi said. "But on the other hand, the song still has to be a hit to do well. Bryan Adams is where he is today because he writes hit songs, not because of CanCon regulations. The premise for CanCon is good,

but I think it's too conservative," Tassi added.

Tassi explained what she considers is ironic about the whole issue: "Bryan Adams is a Canadian, and, in a sense, he is getting better treatment from other countries [than in Canada]."

"The sad fact of the matter is that the talent in Canada is overwhelming. But, time and time again, they just have to go over to the United States. They can only go so far in Canada."

Recession forces change in selling strategy

By Melissa Ball

Holly's Secret Garden is nestled in a tiny room in the back of a doll store on 62 Metcalf St. in Elora, is elegant and serene.

Holly Clifford, 56, of Elora, Ont., has managed to keep her business going over the last few recession-burdened months, but just barely. The store's pale green walls enclose a vast display of everything from vintage lace curtains and dried flower arrangements to grape-vine bird cages and original watercolor paintings.

"I really believe in display to sell

your product," Holly said. This is a beautiful, but much different store, than it was three years ago.

Clifford is a tall, elegant woman with a kind grin. Her grey eyes glimmer and shyness is evident when she speaks. Silver bracelets and rings complement her pink blouse and black angora sweater, and well-worn granny boots peek out from a long denim skirt.

There have been ups and downs for Clifford during her years in the art business, but the recession has taken the biggest toll yet. As a result, she has had to change her whole product line and selling strategy.

egy.

In the late 1980s, Clifford had to hire 13 staff members to build a warehouse to keep up with the demand for her country folkart. Folkart is wooden carvings and toys with a country and farm appeal that was most popular a few years ago. The upswing lasted for about three years and ended in 1990 when Clifford was forced to dissolve the business and sell all of her equipment because there just wasn't a market for her products anymore.

"Folkart is a dying craft," she claims with evident wistfulness in her voice.

Wooden folkart tulips were here best seller by far. "I must have sold at least a million of those over the years," she said with a smile. "They don't sell as well anymore though."

Clifford has found new success with her passion for painting. She has won two awards for them in Toronto art shows and she has a large painting in the Elora Mill restaurant. Clifford is also known for her flower arrangements.

Art has always come naturally for Clifford who developed her love for painting during summers on the Gaspé Peninsula. She discovered folk art in Quebec and devel-

oped her own style in Elora where she has resided for the last 14 years. Travelling in Mexico, Barbados and Jamaica in the 1970s also gave her inspiration.

"Anyone can make a living out of art if they really want to," she exclaims.

This positive attitude about her own work and obvious determination make it no surprise that she is doing well. When asked what the best part of her job was, Clifford replied with a laugh, "Making money." Perhaps an unexpected, yet real and honest answer from a hard-working woman.

All the world's a stage for local students

By Becky Cochrane and Winnie Welch

Behind every curtains' fold the glowing future lies unrolled.

— Bret Harte

As the curtains opened on the 46th annual district Sears Festival, the future shone brighter than a star for the many high school participants.

Students from 15 area schools took to the stage Feb. 25 to 29 at Bluevale collegiate in Waterloo.

The Sears Drama Festival gives students in area secondary schools the opportunity to showcase their talents while bringing students, teachers and the community together to view and discuss each other's work with the guidance of an experienced adjudicator.

The festival of one-act plays originally began in Toronto but has since expanded to include schools from across the province. The district competition at Bluevale included schools from Waterloo Region, Perth County and Huron County.

All the plays performed were original works and some were even written by high school students.

Judges at Bluevale chose Listowel District Secondary School's Black Door Theater production of the *Wall Within* and Kitchener's Grand River collegiate production of *Robin Hood* to proceed to the northwestern regional competition which will take place March 26, 27 and 28 at Burlington High School in Burlington.

The winners from the northwestern regional competition will then compete with other regional winners early in May at the Ontario Showcase event to be held at Elmira District Secondary School.

Following this event, scholarships will be awarded to chosen students who are planning to pursue future studies in theatre production.

While watching these wonderful plays the audience was in total awe of the mass of young talent participating in the festival.

It was hard to believe that all the actors and crew members were high school students, many of whom have no previous experience in the theatre.

Two plays could be singled out as catching the audiences attention: Listowel District Secondary School's *Black Door Theatre* pro-

duction of the *Wall Within* and Kitchener's Cameron Heights collegiate production of *Why Do We Laugh*.

The *Wall Within* was a haunting tale of one man's mental trauma 10 years after fighting in the Vietnam War. It was obvious that a great deal of hard work had been put into this production.

The play was quite abstract with human beings acting as the props and flashes from the past interacting with the present.

The entire production was so realistic that, at times, the audience felt it was apart of the story.

Cameron Heights collegiate's *Why Do We Laugh* was a touching story of a man and woman, now married, who had known each other since childhood. Though there are only two characters, eight actors interact with each other as the characters at different stages in their relationship.

"It was a real interesting experience," said Jason McBride, 17, of Cameron Heights. "You looked out at the audience and you knew there were people out there but as soon as the play began you forgot about them and you actually became your character."

The participants in the festival became involved for many different reasons. Some had previous experience in the festival, some had always wanted to act but had never had the opportunity and some were out to try anything new.

Each participant experienced

something different from being involved. Mike VanSchaik, 17, an actor in Grand River collegiate's *Robin Hood*, felt the festival was a success because he made new friends, had fun and picked up some acting experience along the way.

Kitchener radio stations

Continued from page 6

ceives demo tapes, they are listened to and a decision is made if they are up to standard.

The station has to go by a chart. No local music will appear on the charts as a rule. When finished with the demo tapes, the station usually keeps them for a while or gives them to someone who might want to listen to them.

CHYM also plays local music. The Kite from Guelph, Errol Starr from Kitchener, and Katilin, also from Kitchener, are examples. CHYM sponsors a local talent contest. The station can't play a tape an artist has recorded because of legal loopholes, Schneider said.

Local artists are recommended to send their demo tapes to Factor, an agency that helps local talent. If Factor likes their music the musicians will receive a grant.

The Rhinos, who recently played at Conestoga College, "if given a proper shot, could really deliver. I thought they were incredible," said Schneider. "We do try to foster local talent."

CHYM returns unused demo tapes or passes them to somebody else. "It is a delicate situation," said Schneider.

For music to be considered Canadian, it has to be from Canada, the music has to be written by a Canadian, the record has to be produced in Canada and the lyrics have to be written by a Canadian.

Spotlight on local talent

Local recording studio provides small bands with equal opportunity

By Tina Verhoeven
and Denyse Gordanier

For many people, Central Ontario Recording Studio in Kitchener is just a sign on a door, but 28-year-old Gary Mundell knows it is much more than that.

The studio, at 14 Charles St., personifies Mundell's interest in music since he began playing guitar in 1975. As a self-taught musician, he has learned much of his knowledge through friends and from reading. Over the past few years, he has played with Frank Marino and Mohogany Rush, enjoys writing original songs and is aware of new talent that passes through town.

After starting a small recording studio in 1985, with an eight-track, one-inch machine, Mundell has now improved his equipment and uses a 16-track, two-inch machine and then mixes it to digital. He has spent the previous eight months building a new console from an image in his mind. The finished product will have a 40 channel, 16 subgroup stereo console.

Many local bands, including New Rising Suns, Noise Floor, LuLu's house band and Cherry Smash, who are presently recording 18 tracks, have been in the studio with Mundell. Word of mouth is his only form of advertisement, but he has many connections in the music industry stemming from experience.

Most of the bands that Mundell works with are independent. After recording the tracks, the bands will duplicate them and distribute them personally. Almost all the tracks are original as the bands have no reason to do cover tunes unless they are already signed to a record company.

Success in this business is dependant upon attitude and dedication, and Mundell takes his success and the success of others very seriously. His theory about clients is based on this principle, "If they come in here with respect and want to get the job done, I'll get it done."

Although Mundell appreciates creativity from the bands, he must act as a liaison with the client and is not afraid to give his opinion. When clients book the studio and his time and act unprofessionally, he will tell them not to waste their money or his time.

Mundell's general fee for recording depends on the client's attitude, reputation and budget. For an eight-hour day, the charges will be in the \$160 range, which is not unreasonable for the effort that he must exhibit.

With only four other studios in town that are about equal in ability, Mundell's competition is scarce but still apparent. By working in the basement of a building, he is able to create an atmosphere that is removed from the business world, keeping his overhead low while providing better quality for his clients.

Not only does Mundell centre on recording projects, but he has been recently involved with the Futures program where students can come into the studio and learn the basis of electronics on a level equal to that of Fanshawe College.

When August arrives, Mundell will be moving to a larger facility. Although it has not been picked out yet, he hopes to design the room to provide better acoustics and better service for everyone involved.

Lone Rhinoceros. "It was my favorite album," Michel said. "The Rhinos is basically short for the album name."

He later added it also seemed appropriate because it followed the same style as The Beatles and The Monkees.

The five-member-band is renowned for the variety of musical capability and has been inspired by such musical greats as David Bowie, The Clash and even Bob Marley.

Adopting various styles of play is what makes them different from other bands and what they attribute most of their success to.

"This band is a full-time job for us now," says Michel. "We've quit all our regular jobs and we're just going to take it from here."

Incidentally, the Rhinos have just finished recording a new tape. It's called Elephants and Bees and has been released in record stores in Kitchener-Waterloo.

If you have seen the band and liked what you heard, they are now available on tape.



Gary Mundell at the console in his recording studio.
(Photo by Tina Verhoeven)

The varied tapestry of life inspires Kitchener poet

By Brian Scott

Dona Paul Massel's works lie waiting in the library, in the shelves of literature - untouched, let alone read, until some adventurous soul seeks a more human and kindred spirit.

The soft-spoken bespectacled Kitchener grandmother and wife of 25 years, weaves poetry from an acute sensitivity towards her family, friends, her childhood and the crafts she passionately pursues.

Her first book of poetry, *The Vikings Who Came to Fly*, published in 1983, reflects her childhood in Muskoka, and the nearby camp for Norwegian airmen who trained in Canada during the Second World War. It illustrates the lives and commitment to freedom of the Norwegians at a time when their own country was occupied by the Nazis.

Years later, Massel was honoured to meet the King of Norway who was on a visit to Canada. While only able to shake his hand, it was enough. "Not many people get to meet a King," she reflected. "It was very special."

The experiences of immigrants,

and women in particular, who come from countries that have endured hard times, is a constant source of inspiration. Her book *Poppies for Our Sisters* relates some of the stories of hardship women endured in their attempts to secure new and productive lives in Canada.

"I think women have a special place in hard times," Massel said. "There's a whole history that the women experienced that men didn't experience."

Crafts are an important source of inspiration for Massel. In 1989, St. Jeromes high school in Kitchener put on the play *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Massel sewed the robes for Jesus in a previous performance, and when she heard the school was doing the play again, she phoned them and said, "Pick me. I'll sew them again." Massel ended up weaving the fabric for the robes, a task that took her three months.

She recently read some of her poems from *In the Space Between the Threads*, at the main branch of Kitchener Public Library.

"Four of us on a winter weekend at the cottage, wound the wool for

this Jesus robe, and the erosion of self receded into skeins and skeins. One holding, one winding. Love and Friendship wound together by the common threads between them..."

Through the poem, which ultimately explores the relationship between a young girl and her grandmother, Massel sees these moments eroding in the face of today's mass produced consumer items, leading to lost respect between generations. Another poem written earlier, relates her own experience of becoming a grandmother.

"When she (Massel's daughter) was expecting her first child - that was my first grandchild - I wasn't ready to be a grandmother, and I ended up writing that poem. When it was finished I was quite content to be. Quite content."

Dona Paul Massel's work is published by the University of Waterloo Press, but all copies are sold out. Her work is available at the main branch of the Kitchener Public Library, along with a videotaped interview with the author conducted by CKCO TV.

Rhinos: Canada's new superband?

By Jason Schmidt

What do Mike Blanchard, Rob Carli, Darren Iles, Steve Kendall, and Dan Michel all have in common? If you have been reading Spoke, and keeping up with local events, you will know that together they form one super band: The Rhinos.

The Rhinos have been playing together for almost four years, the band consisting of a lead guitar, bass, saxophone, drums, and keyboards.

According to Dan Michel, lead singer and guitarist, fate is what brought them together in the first place.

"I was part of a band that broke up, and at the same time, another group was doing the same thing. So the members of both bands who still wanted to play formed the Rhinos," he said.

The name of the group was adopted in a variety of methods. The most dominant inspiration came from a record released in 1982, by Adrian Belew, called The

Who wants Meatloaf when there's Pot Roast at home?

By Lisa Frederick

Pot Roast? Who in his right mind would name a band Pot Roast? How about four average fellows from Brantford, in jeans and T-shirts with a humble attitude toward their music?

John Hughes, 19, born in Bellshill, Scotland, sings and plays lead guitar for the band. He described the image portrayed by the band.

"The image we portray is very important to us," he said. "We don't want to give off the image that we are too serious, or that we have a big ego. It's simply a very modest image."

The band, formed only months ago, includes two members who got their start in other bands,

Hughes had played in a Brantford group called Stone Cold, and the bass player of Pot Roast, Nick Feijo, 19, sang in another group.

Drummer Darryl Chonka, 19, started jamming with Hughes after he left Stone Cold. Pot Roast's rhythm guitarist Bob McFadden, 19, later joined the band.

Pot Roast's debut took place in Brantford at Danny's Ho-Ho last December. The audience of 100 to 150 people ranged from 16-17-year-old to a large group of 65-year-old women, who were holding a Christmas party that evening. Hughes described the bands first performing experience.

"It was great because we had a group of young people and a group of old people," he said. "There were also some real country west-

ern guys with big, huge feathers stuck in their hats."

If you are wondering how the band got its name, Hughes recalled how the idea was sparked by an inspiration.

"Bob and I were with some friends listening to Meatloaf," he said. "We thought about what it would be like if we could come up with a name something the same. Somebody said Pot Roast and everyone started laughing. The next thing I knew, we were the band Pot Roast."

Pot Roast has performed at the Paris Royal Tavern, Shenanigan's Bar and Grill and the Best Western in Brantford. Their next performance will be at the Royal Tavern in Paris, the last weekend in May.